



Asian Forensic Sciences Network
World Forensics Festival
Seoul, Korea
October 14, 2014



Recent Activities in the United States:
National Commission on Forensic
Science (NCFS) and
Organization of Scientific
Area Committees (OSAC)

John M. Butler, Ph.D.

National Institute of Standards and Technology
NIST Fellow & Special Assistant to the Director for Forensic Science
Vice-Chair, National Commission on Forensic Science



Scientific Working Group on DNA Analysis Methods (SWG-DAM)

<http://www.swgdam.org/>

- **Established in November 1988 by FBI Laboratory**
- Named Technical Working Group on DNA Analysis Methods (TWGDAM) for the first decade
- **Comprised of ~50 scientists from U.S. and Canada**
 - Typically 20-25 voting members and the rest as invited guests
- European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI) DNA Working Group representative often attends
- **Three day meetings held semiannually every January and July**
- **Current committees (6) and working groups (2):**
 - Autosomal STR Interpretation, Combined DNA Index System, Enhanced Detection Methods and Interpretation, Quality Assurance, Rapid DNA, Y-STR, **Probabilistic Genotyping**, and **Next Generation Sequencing**
- Previous committees:
 - RFLP, PCR, mitochondrial DNA, mass spectrometry, training, validation, expert systems, missing persons/mass disasters, and mixture interpretation



Current SWGDAM Guidelines

Hyperlinks to documents available on SWGDAM.org

Release Date	Guidelines	Previous Versions (TWGDAM)
2010	<u>STR Interpretation Guidelines</u>	2000
2012	<u>Validation Guidelines for Forensic DNA Analysis Methods</u>	1991, 1995, 2004
2013	<u>Mitochondrial DNA Analysis Interpretation Guidelines</u> & <u>Mitochondrial DNA Nomenclature Example</u>	1993, 2003
2013	<u>Training Guidelines</u>	2001
2014	<u>Guidelines for Missing Persons Casework</u>	--
2014	<u>Interpretation Guidelines for Y-Chromosome STRs</u>	2009

Guidelines in development: enhanced detection methods, validation of probabilistic genotyping software, and updated STR interpretation guidelines

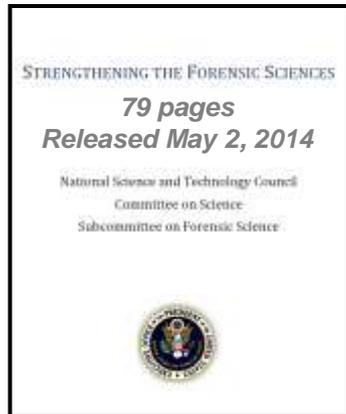
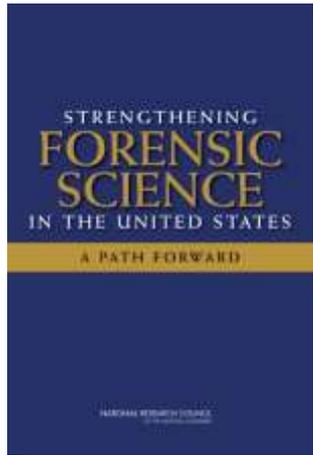


Additional SWGDAM Documents

Hyperlinks to documents available on SWGDAM.org

Date	Topic
Oct 2009	<u>SWGDM Recommendations to the FBI Director on the “Interim Plan for the Release of Information in the Event of a ‘Partial Match’ at NDIS”</u>
Mar 2012	<u>Letter to NIJ Regarding the United States Y-STR Database</u>
Jun 2012	<u>Response by The US Equal Opportunity Commission (EEOC) to the request by SWGDAM for an informal advisory opinion on the GINA exemption for forensic laboratories</u>
Jan 2013	<u>Open SWGDAM Letter Regarding the Claims Raised in State v. Abernathy that the CODIS Core Loci are Associated with Medical Conditions/Disease States.</u>
Feb 2013	<u>SWGDM Letter to R-DNA Developers</u>
Oct 2013	<u>Recommendations from the SWGDAM Adhoc Working Group on Familial Searching</u>

NCFS and OSAC: U.S. Efforts to Strengthen Forensic Science



http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/NSTC/strengthening_the_forensic_sciences_may_-_2014.pdf

- National Academy of Sciences (**NAS**) **report** issued in Feb 2009
- White House **Subcommittee on Forensic Science** (SoFS) operated from July 2009 to Dec 2012

DOJ/NIST Partnership (announced Feb 2013)

1. **NCFS** (National Commission on Forensic Science)
 - **First meeting held February 3-4, 2014 in Washington DC**
2. **OSAC** (Organization of Scientific Area Committees)
 - **Being organized**; first public meetings to be held Feb 2015

February 3-4, 2014 was the first meeting of the **National Commission on Forensic Science**



37 Commissioners + DOJ/NIST Leadership Team
(with ~100 public attendees)

Webcast of Second NCFS Meeting

<http://www.nist.gov/forensics/national-commission-on-forensic-science-webcast.cfm>

National Commission on Forensic Science Meeting Part 1



So I'd like to welcome those who are viewing us via the Webcast.

02:55 / 02:00

English

The image shows a wide-angle view of a large conference room. A long, dark wood conference table is set up with a dark red cloth. Numerous people are seated around the table, facing each other. In the center of the table, a man in a dark suit is circled in red. Behind the table, a blue backdrop features the logo of the National Commission on Forensic Science. To the left and right of the backdrop are the American flag and the NIST flag. The room is well-lit, and there are large windows with curtains in the background. The video player interface at the bottom shows a progress bar at 02:55 / 02:00, a language dropdown set to English, and various control icons.

Members of the National Commission on Forensic Science (NCFS)

Suzanne	Bell	Professor of Chemistry
Frederick	Bieber	Professor of Pathology
Thomas	Cech	Professor of Biochemistry
M. Bonner	Denton	Professor of Chemistry and Geosciences
Andrea	Ferreira-Gonzalez	Professor of Pathology
Stephen	Fienberg	Professor of Statistics and Social Science
James	Gates, Jr.	Professor of Physics
Troy	Duster	Professor of Sociology
Jules	Epstein	Professor of Law
Paul	Giannelli	Professor of Law

Cecelia	Crouse	Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Crime Laboratory
Dean	Gialamas	Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
Linda	Jackson	Virginia Department of Forensic Science
John	Fudenberg	Clark County Office of the Coroner/Medical Examiner
Ryant	Washington	Fluvanna County Sheriff's Office
Phil	Pulaski	New York City Police Department

Nelson	Santos	Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Laboratory
Greg	Czarnopys	Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Lab
Gerry	LaPorte	Office of Investigative and Forensic Sciences, NIJ
Marc	LeBeau	Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Laboratory
Kathryn	Turman	Office of Victim Assistance, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Members of the National Commission on Forensic Science (NCFS)

Ted	Hunt	Prosecuting Attorney
John	Kacavas	Prosecuting Attorney
Matt	Redle	Prosecuting Attorney

Pam	King	Public Defender
Julia	Leighton	Public Defender

Barbara	Hervey	Judge
Bridget Mary	McCormack	Judge
Jed	Rakoff	Judge

John	Butler	National Institute of Standards and Technology
David	Honey	National Intelligence for Science and Technology
Marilyn	Huestis	Chemistry and Drug Metabolism, NIDA, NIH
Patricia	Manzolillo	United States Postal Inspection Service
Jeff	Salyards	Department of Defense
Mark	Weiss	National Science Foundation

Vincent	Di Maio	Consultant in Forensic Pathology
Susan	Howley	National Center for Victims of Crime
Peter	Neufeld	Innocence Project
Fran	Schrotter	American National Standards Institute

National Commission on Forensic Science (NCFS)

www.justice.gov/ncfs

NCFS Leadership



James M. Cole
Deputy Attorney General
DOJ Co-Chair



Willie E. May
Acting Director of NIST
NIST Co-Chair



Nelson A. Santos
Vice-Chair (DOJ)



John M. Butler
Vice-Chair (NIST)

In 2013, the Department of Justice (DOJ) established the National Commission on Forensic Science, in partnership with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), to enhance the practice and improve the reliability of forensic science. This unique partnership draws upon each agency's core strengths to promote scientific validity, reduce fragmentation, and improve federal coordination of forensic science.

The Commission is co-chaired by Deputy Attorney General James M. Cole and NIST Acting Director and Acting Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology, Willie E. May. Nelson Santos, Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Forensic Sciences at the Drug Enforcement Administration, and John M. Butler, Special Assistant to the NIST Director for forensic science, serve as vice-chairs. Brette Steele, Senior Advisor on Forensic Science and Senior Counsel to the Deputy Attorney General serves as the Designated Federal Officer and Robin Jones, Consultant within the Department of Justice, serves as Program Manager.

The Commission includes federal, state and local forensic science service providers; research scientists and academics; law enforcement officials; prosecutors, defense attorneys and judges; and other stakeholders from across the country.

GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

[Charter](#)

[Bylaws](#)

GENERAL INFORMATION NATIONAL COMMISSION ON FORENSIC SCIENCE

CONTACT

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Brette.L.Steele@usdoj.gov

By Phone:
(202) 305-0180

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Next meeting (4th): October 28-29, 2014

NCFS Co-Chairs and OSTP Director address the first Commission meeting

NIST Director
Pat Gallagher

Deputy Attorney General
James Cole

OSTP Director
John Holdren





Informational Briefings

- **Judge Harry Edwards** spoke on findings from the 2009 NAS report
- Bureau of Justice Statistics researcher **Matt DuRose** reviewed the 2009 census of U.S. forensic laboratories



White House Subcommittee on Forensic Science

committee chairs discuss outcome of work
conducted from 2009 to 2012

Patricia Manzolillo

U.S. Postal Service
Forensic Laboratory



**Accreditation
& Certification**

Dean Gialamas

LA County Sheriff's
Office Crime Lab



**Proficiency
Testing**

Jeff Salyards

Defense Forensic
Science Center



**Research &
Development**

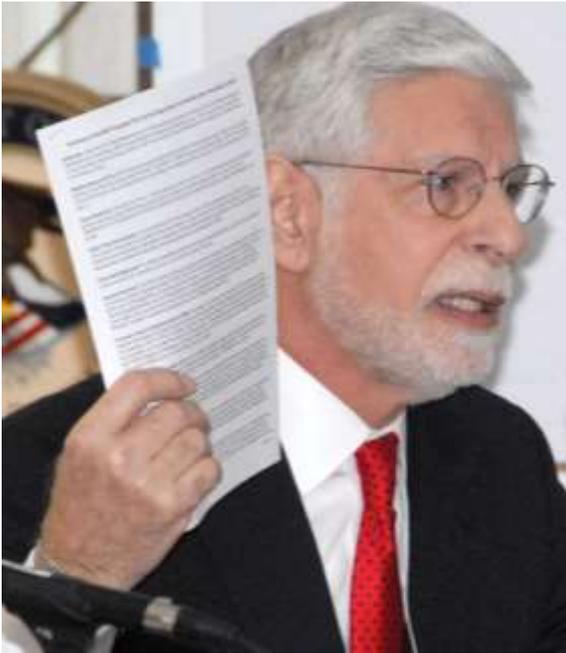
Gerry LaPorte

National Institute
of Justice



**Documentary
Standards**

Mark Stolorow (NIST) introduces the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) plan



For more information, see <http://www.nist.gov/forensics/osac.cfm>

Commission discussions were led by Vice-Chairs John Butler (NIST) and Nelson Santos (DOJ)



Discussed issues and developed subcommittee topics

Current NCFS Subcommittees

where much of the Commission work will occur...

1. Accreditation and Proficiency Testing
2. Interim Solutions
3. Medico-legal Death Investigation
4. Reporting and Testimony
- 5. Scientific Inquiry and Research**
6. Training on Science and Law
7. Human Factors and Cognitive Bias

**Each NCFS
subcommittee
includes individuals
beyond the
Commissioners**

Issues being examined:
(a) Foundational literature
(b) Educational programs
(c) Transition of research
(d) Measuring impact

Subcommittee products will be discussed and voted on by the full Commission prior to be recommended to the Attorney General

NCFS Meeting 2 Topics

May 12-13, 2014

- Panel on **Cognitive Bias and Human Factors**
 - Speakers: Deborah Boehm-Davis, John Collins, Michael Risinger, David H. Kaye
- Panel on **Ethics in Forensic Science**
 - Speakers: Jamie Upshaw Downs, Rob Lesnevich
- **Subcommittee Reports**
- **OSAC Update**
 - Speakers: Mark Stolorow, Willie May

NCFS Meeting Materials Available

<http://www.justice.gov/ncfs/meeting-materials.html>

Meeting Summary

23 page pdf document

National Commission on
Forensic Science

Meeting Summary

May 12-13, 2014

Office of Justice Programs
810 7th Street NW, Washington, DC

2nd National Commission on Forensic Science Webcast

National Commission on Forensic Science Meeting...



Webcast
(>9 hours of
archived video)

MEETING TWO

References

Listing of 22 references provided to Commissioners

Human Factors and Cognitive Bias in Forensic Science

Deborah Boehm-Davis, Dean, College of Humanities and Social Sciences and University Professor, Department of Psychology, George Mason University

John Collins, President, Forensic Foundations Group

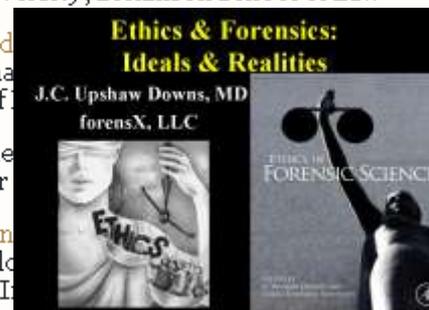
The Need for Sequential Unmasking

Michael Risinger, John J. Gibbons Professor of Law, Seton Hall University School of Law

David H. Kaye

Distinguished Professor of Law and Weiss Family Faculty Scholar, Penn State University, Dickinson School of Law

Speaker Slides (pdf files)



NCFS Meeting 3 Topics

August 26-27, 2014

- Amended Bylaws Reviewed
 - **Vote passed on a directive to survey police forensic units**
- Panel on **Cognitive Bias and Human Factors**
 - Speakers: Itiel Dror and Bill Thompson
 - **Human Factors Subcommittee formed**
- Panel on **Latent Print Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) Interoperability**
 - Speakers: Melissa Gische, Austin Hicklin, Lauren Reed, and David Russell
- **UK Regulator Andrew Rennison** to share lessons learned from the United Kingdom
- Panel on **Role of Accreditation in Forensic Science**
 - Speakers: Beth Mishalanie, Ross Randlett, Roger Klein
- **Subcommittee Reports**

Future NCFS Meeting Dates

<http://www.justice.gov/ncfs>

Meeting 4: October 28-29, 2014
Meeting 5: January 29-30, 2015
Meeting 6: April 30-May 1, 2015

Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC)

Forensic discipline-specific guidance groups administered by NIST



Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC)

Forensic Science Standards Board (FSSB)

Legal Resource
Committee (LRC)

Quality Infrastructure
Committee (QIC)

Human Factors
Committee (HFC)

SAC
Biology/DNA

SAC
Chemistry/
Instrumental Analysis

SAC
Crime Scene/
Death Investigation

SAC
IT/Multimedia

SAC
Physics/Pattern

DNA Analysis Sub1

DNA Analysis Sub2

Wildlife Forensics Sub

Controlled Substances Sub

Fire Debris and Explosives
Sub (lab)

Geological Materials Sub

Gunshot Residue Sub

Materials (Trace) Sub

Toxicology Sub

Anthropology Sub

Disaster Victim
Identification Sub

Dogs and Sensors Sub

Fire Scene and
Explosives Sub

Medical/Legal Death
Investigation Sub

Odontology Sub

Facial Identification Sub

Imaging Technologies Sub

Speaker Recognition Sub

Digital Evidence Sub
(to be added - 9/8/14)

Blood Stain Pattern
Analysis Sub

Friction Ridge Sub

Firearms & Toolmarks
Sub

Footwear
& Tire Tread Sub

Questioned Documents
Sub

SAC = Scientific Area Committee
Sub = Subcommittee

Understanding the OSAC Levels

Forensic Science Standards Board (FSSB)

- Set policy, rules, priorities for OSAC
- Manage OSAC Registry of Approved Standards and Approved Guidelines

Legal Resource, Quality Infrastructure, Human Factors Committees

- Provide advice across all forensic science and discipline committees

Scientific Area Committees

- Manage work within a scientific area (harmonize/leverage across related disciplines)
- Adopt and approve scientific area standards, (e.g., terminology, reporting requirements, conclusion statements)

Discipline Specific Subcommittees (Working Groups)

- Identify and develop (with an SDO or the canvass method) standards & guidelines for discipline

Notice of Inquiry (NOI) Responses Received

In general, the responses support the new structure.

- **82 responses received**
 - 12 SWGs commented
 - 15 other groups including ASCLD, CAC, CFSO, IAI, Innocence Project, NACDL
 - More than a dozen labs and a half dozen companies
 - Individuals from 21 states and four countries (UK, Canada, Germany, and Australia)
- **Public posting of comments on [NIST.gov/forensics](https://www.nist.gov/forensics)**
- **Highlights:**
 - *Practitioner voice should be a major player*
 - *Strongly urged to include all forensic science disciplines*
 - *Concern about funding (no “pay-to-play” fees)*
 - *Interest in consistent and open support for web postings*
 - *Interest in face-to-face and virtual meetings*
 - *Encouragement to include existing professional organizations*

OSAC Launch

- February 4, 2014 announcement to NCFS
- The OSAC will be a **collaborative body of more than 600 forensic science practitioners and other experts** who represent all levels of the government, academia and industry.
- Establishing OSAC to strengthen the nation's use of forensic science by:
 - supporting the development and promulgation of forensic science **consensus documentary standards** and guidelines
 - determining each forensic discipline's **research and measurement standards needs**
 - ensuring that a **sufficient scientific basis** exists for each discipline

Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC)

Forensic Science Standards Board (FSSB)

June 26

Legal Resource Committee (LRC)

July 16

Quality Infrastructure Committee (QIC)

Human Factors Committee (HFC)

Sept 3

SAC
Biology/DNA

SAC
Chemistry/
Instrumental Analysis

SAC
Crime Scene/
Death Investigation

SAC
IT/Multimedia

SAC
Physics/Pattern

Bottom portion (subcommittee membership) to be announced by end of October

DNA Analysis Sub1

Controlled Substances Sub

Anthropology Sub

Facial Identification Sub

Blood Stain Pattern
Analysis Sub

DNA Analysis Sub2

Fire Debris and Explosives
Sub (lab)

Disaster Victim
Identification Sub

Imaging Technologies Sub

Friction Ridge Sub

Wildlife Forensics Sub

Geological Materials Sub

Dogs and Sensors Sub

Speaker Recognition Sub

Firearms & Toolmarks
Sub

Gunshot Residue Sub

Fire Scene and
Explosives Sub

Digital Evidence Sub

Footwear
& Tire Tread Sub

Materials (Trace) Sub

Medical/Legal Death
Investigation Sub

Questioned Documents
Sub

Toxicology Sub

Odontology Sub

SAC = Scientific Area Committee
Sub = Subcommittee

OSAC Events and Information



NIST Home > Forensics > Organization of Scientific Area Committees

www.nist.gov/forensics/osac.cfm



Organization for Scientific Area Committees (OSAC)

NIST is working with the forensic science community to establish the new Organization for Scientific Area Committees (OSAC). OSAC will coordinate development of standards and guidelines for the forensic science community to improve quality and consistency of work in the forensic science community. View the current **organization chart**. Click on the links below to learn about OSAC developments. See our **FAQs for OSAC**.

July 7, 2014 – Presentation slides for first FSSB virtual meeting (opens PDF)

June 26, 2014 – NIST Names Members to First Forensic Science Standards Board (news release)

May 14, 2014 – Forensic Committee Application Closes for 2014; Candidates May Apply for 2015

May 14, 2014 – OSAC Update Presented to National Commission on Forensic Science, presentation slides (opens PDF)

April 22, 2014 – NIST Seeks Applicants to Join Forensic Science Committees (news release)

April 11, 2014 – Calling Forensic Scientists: Apply Now to Join the NIST Organization of Scientific Area Committees (news update)

April 11, 2014 – The OSAC Roles and Responsibilities document is now available.

April 11, 2014 – Application form for NIST Organization of Scientific Area Committees is online. Apply now.

March 18, 2014 – Application Form for NIST Organization of Scientific Area Committees Coming Soon (news update)

March 18, 2014 – Updated summary of the NIST Plan for the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (pdf)

Feb. 18, 2014 – NIST Forensic Science team gave a panel presentation at the American Academy of

**1313 applicants from
April 11 to May 11
(>150 for DNA)**

FSSB announced June 26

Feb. 18, 2014 – NIST Forensic Science team gave a panel presentation at the American Academy of Forensic Sciences Annual Meeting.

- View the recorded Webcast on New Forensic Scientific Area Committees
- Presentation slides (PDF)

Feb. 14, 2014 – NIST announces Feb. 18 Webcast on New Forensic Scientific Area Committees

Feb. 7, 2014 – NIST Presents an Infrastructure Plan to Strengthen Forensic Science Committees

Feb. 7, 2014 – Revised slide presentation on OSAC (pdf)

Feb. 7, 2014 – 3-page summary of the NIST Proposed Plan for the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (pdf)

Feb. 4, 2014 – Slide presentation on OSAC to the National Commission on Forensic Science (pdf)

Feb. 4, 2014 – Public Comments on NIST Notice of Inquiry: Possible Models for the Administration and Support for Forensic Guidance Groups (opens pdf 8MB)

Sept. 27, 2013 – NIST Invites Comments on Structure of Forensic Science Guidance Groups (news release)

Forensic Science

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Office of Special Programs

100 Bureau Drive, Stop 4701
Gaithersburg, MD 20899-8102
301-975-2756 or
301-975-2757

	Scientific Working Group (SWG)	Topic (Forensic Discipline)	Start	Sponsor	Website
1	SWG DAM	DNA	1988	FBI	swgdam.org
2	SWG MAT	Materials (Trace)	1992	FBI	swgmat.org
3	SWG FAST	Friction Ridge (Fingerprints)	1995	FBI	swgfast.org
4	SWG DRUG	Controlled Substances	1997	DEA	swgdrug.org
5	SWG IT	Imaging Technologies	1997	FBI OTD	swgit.org
6	SWG DOC	Document Examination	1997	FBI	swgdoc.org
7	SWG DE	Digital Evidence	1998	FBI OTD	swgde.org
8	SWG GUN	Firearms & Toolmarks			
9	SWG FEX	Fire Debris & Explosives			
10	SWG STAIN	Bloodstain Pattern Analysis			
11	SWG TREAD	Shoeprint & Tire Tread			
12	SWG DOG	Dog & Orthogonal Detector	2004	FBI	swgdog.niu.edu
13	SWG GSR	Gun Shot Residue	2007		
14	SWG ANTH	Anthropology	2008		
15	SWG TOX	Toxicology	2009		
16	FISWG	Facial Identification	2009		
17	SWG DVI	Disaster Victim Identification	2010		
18	SWG MDI	Medicolegal Death Investigation	2010		
19	SWG GEO	Geological Materials	2011		
20	SWG WILD	Wildlife Forensics	2011	USFWS	wildlifeforensicscience.org/ swgwild
21	SWG SPEAKER	Voice Analysis	2012	FBI	swg-speaker.org

NIJ funding of SWGs has stopped; **SWG DAM** and **SWG DE** will continue with FBI funding

Collectively these 21 SWGs have had >750 participants and have produced >250 documents

FSSB appointed June 26, 2014

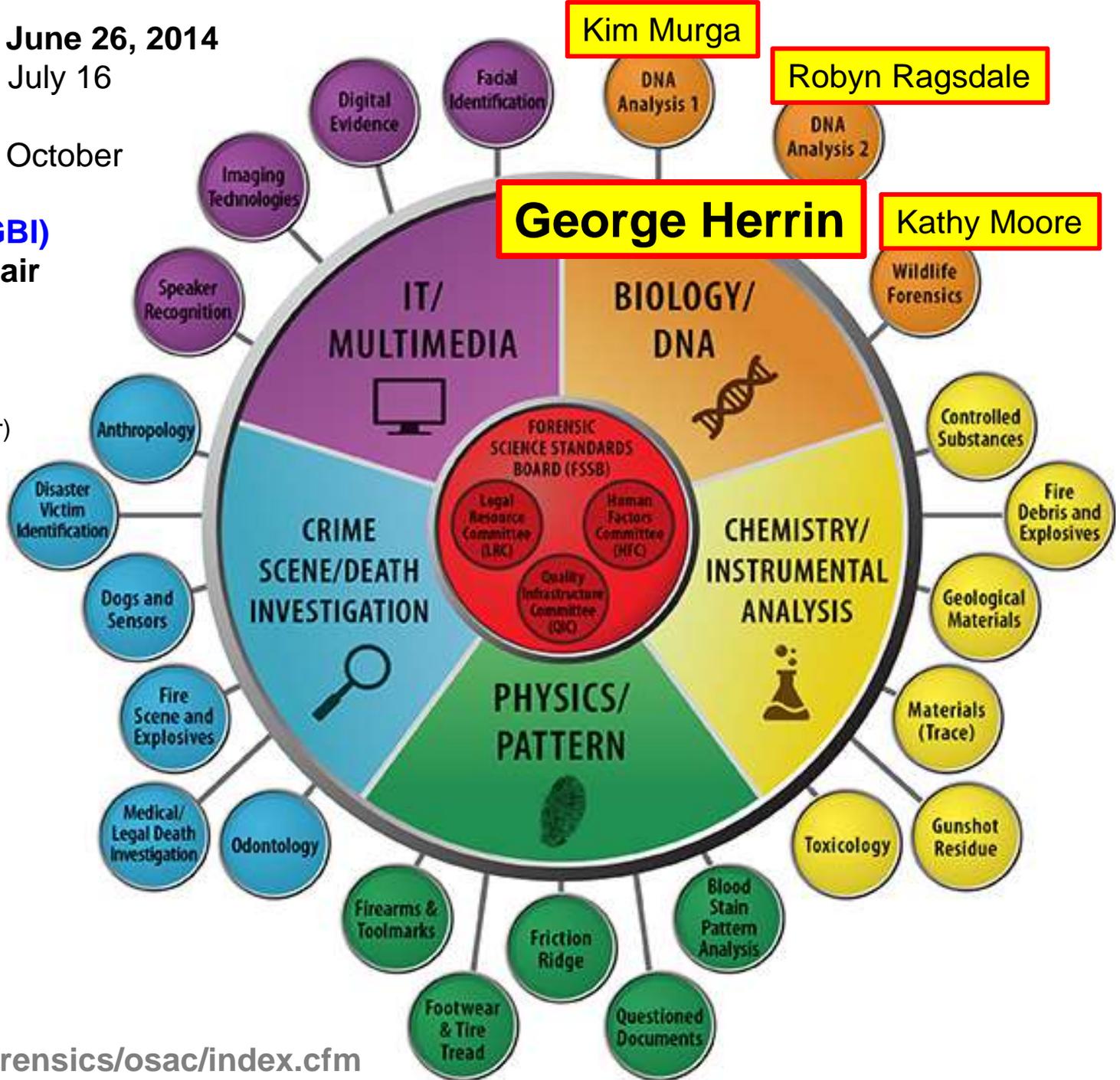
QIC, LRC, HFC – July 16

SAC – Sept 3

Subcommittees – October

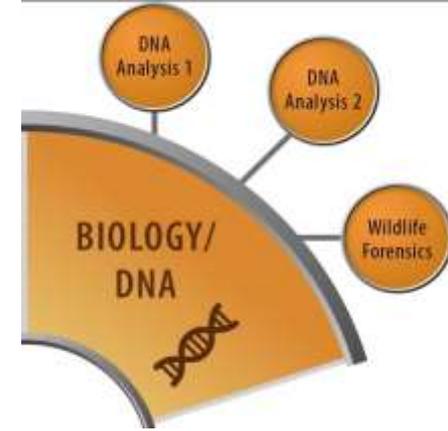
George Herrin (GBI)
SAC Biology Chair

Subcommittee membership to be announced soon (before end of October)



Scientific Area Committee (SAC) Biology Members

appointed September 3, 2014



George Herrin, Jr., Ph.D., **SAC Chair**,

Georgia Bureau of Investigation-Division of Forensic Sciences

Kimberly Murga, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, **Chair of the OSAC DNA Analysis 1 Subcommittee**

Robyn Ragsdale, Ph.D., Florida Department of Law Enforcement, **Chair of the OSAC DNA Analysis 2 Subcommittee**

M. Katherine Moore, U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service, **Chair of the OSAC Wildlife Subcommittee**

John Butler, Ph.D., National Institute of Standards and Technology

Thomas Callaghan, Ph.D., Federal Bureau of Investigation

Robin Cotton, Ph.D., Boston University

Phillip Danielson, Ph.D., University of Denver

Angelo Della Manna, Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences

Deedra Hawk, Wyoming Game and Fish Department Wildlife Forensic and Fish Health Laboratory

Antonio Possolo, Ph.D., National Institute of Standards and Technology

Bruce Weir, Ph.D., University of Washington

SWGDM and OSAC DNA Efforts will Co-Exist and Some Individuals Will be Members of Both

“...NIST and the FBI have agreed that SWGDAM will remain operationally with the FBI at this time...”

<http://swgdam.org/faq.html>



Frequently Asked Questions

On occasion, SWGDAM will use this page to post responses to frequently asked questions from the forensic DNA community or other interested parties for the purposes of general information. The intent of this page is not for it to be a comprehensive list of answers to all of the inquires SWGDAM receives, but rather a collection of those inquires that SWGDAM recognizes to be of interest to a broad spectrum of forensic DNA science practitioners and/or consumers. SWGDAM recognizes that not all inquires will be amenable to the short answer format of this page and will continue to use its members, meetings, SWGDAM.org, and conference updates to collect and disseminate information.

Please note that some questions have been edited for brevity, clarity, and/or to remove specific identifying information. Text contains within [] indicates information added by SWGDAM.

National Commission on Forensic Science

Q: What plans exist to transition SWGDAM from its current home in the FBI to the new Organization of Scientific Are Committees (OSAC)?

SWGDM Response: Due to the unique statutory relationship between SWGDAM and the FBI with regard to the FBI Director’s Quality Assurance Standards (QAS) for DNA Laboratories, NIST and the FBI have agreed that SWGDAM will remain operationally with the FBI at this time. The FBI also feels strongly that the business activities of the SWGDAM Committees are critical for the

SAC Subcommittees

<http://www.nist.gov/forensics/osacroles.cfm#SB>

AUTHORITY

Recommend standards and guidelines for inclusion on the Registries

MAJOR DUTIES

1. Identify, develop, or coordinate standards and guidelines for SAC and FSSB consideration
2. Coordinate the transition of existing SWG and other documents into approved standards and guidelines
3. Provide a semiannual report to SAC on activities and accomplishments
4. Manage subcommittee task groups to accomplish OSAC objectives

MEMBERSHIP

x 24 Subs

Up To 20 Members
total plus up to 5
invited guests

~ 70% practitioners

~ 20% researchers and scientists

Plan to have appointed by end of October 2014

~ 10% R&D
partners/providers

Department of Justice

Policy focused

Limited Term (FACA)

Attorney General

Recommendations



National Commission
on Forensic Science
(**NCFS**)

NIST

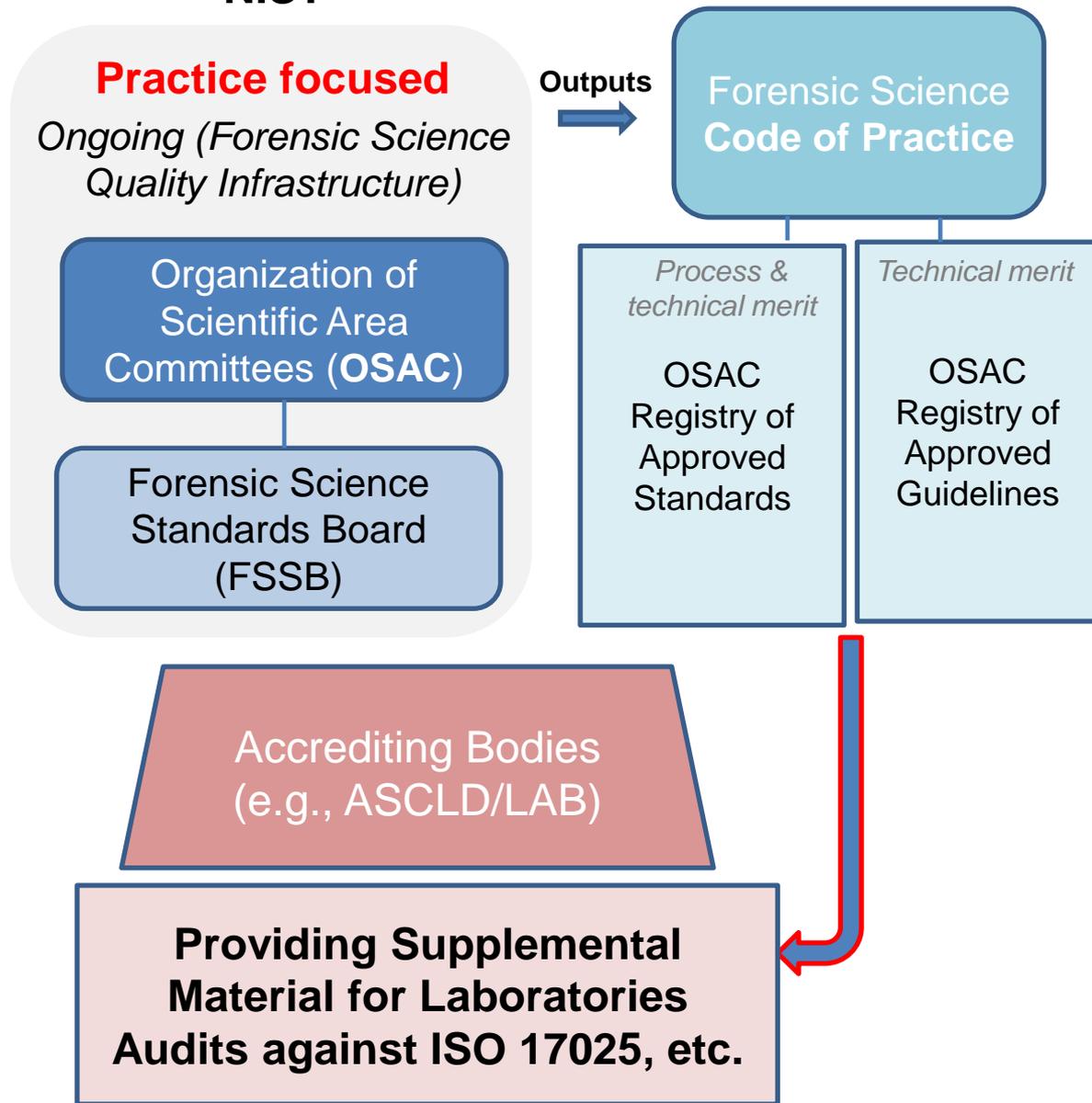
Practice focused

*Ongoing (Forensic Science
Quality Infrastructure)*

Organization of
Scientific Area
Committees (**OSAC**)

Forensic Science
Standards Board
(**FSSB**)

NIST



NSF Dear Colleague Letter regarding forensic science proposals

The image is a screenshot of the National Science Foundation (NSF) website. At the top left is the NSF logo with the tagline 'WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN'. To the right is a 'QUICK LINKS' button and a search bar. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for HOME, FUNDING, AWARDS, DISCOVERIES, NEWS, PUBLICATIONS, STATISTICS, ABOUT NSF, and FASTLANE. The main content area is titled 'NSF 13-120' and features a large heading: 'Dear Colleague Letter: Forensic Science - Opportunity for Breakthroughs in Fundamental and Basic Research and Education'. Below the heading, the date is listed as 'August 12, 2013'. The text begins with 'Dear Colleagues:' followed by a paragraph stating that the NSF is interested in receiving proposals to existing programs in any directorate across the Foundation that address fundamental research questions which might simultaneously advance activities related to research and education in forensic sciences. Supplement requests to existing awards may also be submitted. A section titled 'BACKGROUND' follows, containing a paragraph that references a 2009 report from the National Academy of Sciences titled 'Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: A Path Forward'. The report acknowledges the value of forensic science but also notes the need for systematic research to validate underlying assumptions and methodologies. The NSF is highlighted as the only Federal agency whose mission is to support basic research at the forefront of all fields of fundamental science and engineering. A final section titled 'DETAILS' contains a paragraph explaining that the letter is intended to alert basic science and engineering communities, including education researchers, to the NSF's interest in receiving proposals that investigate fundamental questions, pose and test hypotheses, and explore interdisciplinary research. It also mentions that international partnerships, synergistic interactions with forensic and law enforcement agencies, and proposals for workshops are all welcome.

<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2013/nsf13120/nsf13120.jsp>

NSF Industry/University Research Centers



National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22230



NSF 14-066

Dear Colleague Letter - I/UCRCs in Areas Relevant to the Forensic Sciences

May 7, 2014

Dear Colleagues,

The National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) have partnered as co-sponsors to welcome proposals for establishment of Industry/University Cooperative Research Centers (I/UCRCs; see NSF 13-594; http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?org=ENG&ods_key=nsf13594) in areas relevant to the forensic sciences. With permission from the Principal Investigator (PI), NIJ will share in evaluation of forensics-related I/UCRC proposals, and may co-sponsor successful proposals.

<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2014/nsf14066/nsf14066.pdf>

Save the Date for Future Meetings

- **Forensics@NIST** (Gaithersburg, MD):

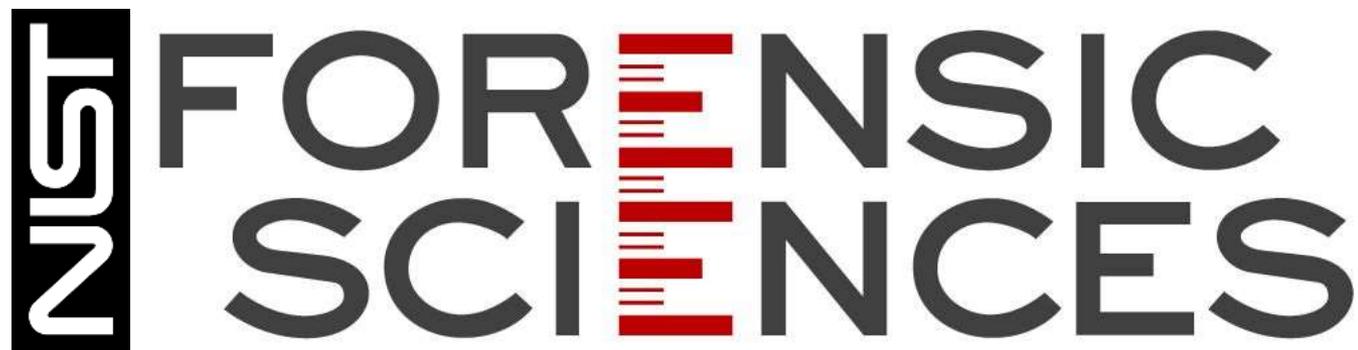
December 3-4, 2014

will be webcast; program will showcase NIST research in DNA, digital evidence, ballistics, and statistics

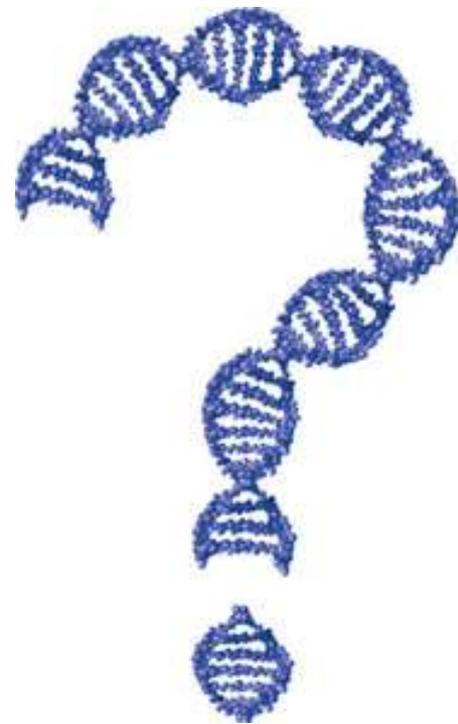
- **International Symposium** on Forensic Measurement Issues and Error (Washington, DC):
July 20-24, 2015 *is being planned*

National Commission on Forensic Science (NCFS):
www.justice.gov/ncfs

Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC):
www.nist.gov/forensics/osac/index.cfm



www.nist.gov/forensics



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